

who are at Guantánamo Bay. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SPECTER and I actually visited that naval base last week and learned a lot.

We have border security we are addressing in the Department of Defense appropriations bill that we passed a week and a half ago that is in conference and in our Homeland Security appropriations bill, both of which aggressively address border security. So we have border security. We have port security. We have the military commissions that are being addressed for those individuals at Guantánamo Bay. We have support for our troops in terms of maintaining our security through the Department of Defense appropriations bill that is currently in conference. And then we have the whole issue of surveillance.

Today we are going to finish on port security. We all know—and we are reminded by the events surrounding our reminiscences of 9/11 with that fifth anniversary—we are fighting a war against radical ideologues. These are militant extremists, and they have a single-minded goal of destroying our Nation. Increasingly, people are realizing that, but it is taking these reminiscences and the remembering of the great tragedy of 9/11, coupled with the reality of what very well could have happened to hundreds and, indeed, thousands of Americans if that plot had not been uncovered by the British.

We know the terrorists are not going to stop. And it is not just a war in one part of the world, it is a war against an ideology. They are not going to stop at anything. The enemy is creative. I mentioned the attacks that could have emerged out of the plot which was uncovered by the British. Who would have ever deemed imaginable a day when business travelers could not be carrying contact lens solution in their carry-on. It is because of an attempt with a "Gatorade" bomb.

The terrorists are always thinking. They are always thinking of how they can stay one step ahead of even what our imagination is. They are searching for our weak points. They are seeking ways to exploit our weak points. That is why we have to remain vigilant, and that is why we have to address these issues on the floor. The substance of the bill that is on the floor does just that, the port security bill. That is vigilance.

Nowhere is it clearer to me that we have to be vigilant than at America's 300 maritime ports of entry. We talk about border security. Well, part of border security is port security. It is a border we have to close and appropriately monitor to prevent the terrorists from doing us harm.

These ports are economic centers. As economic centers, our more than 300 sea and river ports are targets in and of themselves. For people who want to hurt us, want to hurt our economy, they can become a target. These ports become even more attractive when they are close to urban centers. These

ports facilitate the rapid dissemination of cargo from around the globe to each of our cities and towns. Thus, we know the terrorists, when they want to hurt us, would potentially address these ports.

We have done a lot to secure our ports, but the fact remains, they are too porous. That brings us back to the importance of this bill. The bill before us plugs the holes that exist. It toughens security standards for all cargo. And it strengthens and improves programs designed to screen cargo at foreign ports and secures the international supply chain from the very start to the very end.

Technologies have advanced. We have developed more accurate detection tools. But we are not using those tools throughout our system. We are not using them universally. Terrorists have access to stealthier weapons, and that is a huge vulnerability just asking to be exploited if we do not keep up, if we do not keep pace. That is why we must pass this bill tonight.

The bill establishes a risk-based grant program to help assist ports with training personnel and implementing new security standards. The men and women who operate our ports are our first line of defense. We have entrusted these stewards of security with a serious, with a grave responsibility.

Accordingly, the bill ensures that the Department of Homeland Security will move forward with background checks for all port workers so we know who is on the ground at these critical facilities. It sets up procedures for resuming port operations and trade safely and quickly after a terrorist attack to help minimize any effect or any shock to our economy. It establishes the appropriate protocols to ensure that if a terrorist does strike, our ports are not closed longer than necessary.

And importantly, we also need protocols in place so we do not reopen ports too early. An incident at a port could be a red herring, a distraction to disguise other, more damaging terrorist activities.

These are just a few of the highlights of the Port Security Improvement Act. At its core, it is a multipronged approach to plugging the holes that exist in port security. It institutionalizes multiple and redundant security layers. From the factory of origin to cargo container, from cargo container to port warehouse, from port warehouse to cargo ship, from cargo ship to the port of calling, and from the port of calling to the final destination, at each step this bill toughens our standards. We are making it harder for a terrorist's dirty bomb to hide anonymously in a cargo container. We are making it harder for terrorists to tamper with cargo containers. We are making it harder for terrorists to use our ports as target practice. And we are making it harder for terrorists to use our ports to stealthily gain access to the rest of our homeland.

The terrorists we face have a radical agenda. They are ever-vigilant in mon-

itoring and assessing our weaknesses and always looking for new ways to harm us. We must be ever-vigilant in identifying our weaknesses and minimizing and eradicating them. That is what this Port Security Improvement Act does. It is my hope my colleagues will join me in supporting it and in passing this important piece of legislation this afternoon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REPUBLICANS ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING AMERICA SAFER

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I said yesterday I am thankful to be part of the Republican majority that understands that September 11, 2001, changed the way that we must look at the world. Republicans are committed to taking action and not just talking about making America safer.

We must track, capture, and eliminate our terrorist enemies before they attack us. We must provide the President and our military with every legal tool available to fight this war against Islamic extremists, and we must secure our homeland by securing our borders and ports.

Unfortunately, the Democratic Party does not seem to understand the true threat that we face with Islamic extremists. Instead, Senate Democrats continue to prove that they are dangerously naive about the grave danger of global terrorism.

Radical Islamic jihadists have made no secret of their goal, which is the complete subjugation of the world to their extreme form of Islamic nationalism.

Osama bin Laden said the attacks of 9/11 were "an unparalleled and magnificent feat of valor" and "a great step toward the unity of Muslims."

According to the al-Qaida charter:

There will be continuing enmity until everybody believes in Allah. We will not meet [the enemy] halfway, and there will be no room for dialog with them.

The Iranian President has called for a world "without the United States and Zionism," saying that the West's "doomed destiny will be annihilation, misfortune, and abjectness," and telling other nations that in order to have good relations with Iran, they must "bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender."

Horrendous attacks in India, Madrid, London, as well as recent arrests in Canada, Miami, and the foiled London airplane plot have shown that terrorists and their state sponsors have the determination to back up their rhetoric with action.

President Bush and my Republican colleagues have proved that we understand the nature of the enemy we are facing and that we must be just as determined as they are.

Let's be clear. Republicans are not the ones fighting to preserve the status quo. Preserving the status quo is what we did for 8 long years under the Clinton administration—simply responding with a law enforcement mindset while Islamic extremists attacked us and built and financed their worldwide network of terror.

Now Democrats would have us return to the Clinton status quo—a pre-September 11, head-in-the-sand philosophy of "don't listen, don't track, don't challenge."

Republicans understand the world changed on September 11 and that we are fighting a dynamic and committed enemy. As we have responded to terrorists, they have adjusted their tactics, and we are continually evaluating and adapting our strategy to meet this evolving threat.

If we don't show the resolve to defeat radical Islamic terrorists in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, we will never defeat them anywhere. No one understands the stakes better than the terrorists. That is why there is no in-between choice in Iraq. Either we cut and run and allow it to become a safe haven for terrorism and staging grounds for future attacks or we stay until victory over the terrorists is achieved and Iraq is a stable partner in democracy.

Republicans have proved that we will do what it takes to secure our homeland from all enemies. We are committed to completing our current mission in Iraq and Afghanistan with victory and honor and to create a new generation of freedom and security, of peace and prosperity, for America and the world.

The unfortunate truth is that when it comes to securing America's homeland, the Democrats are dangerously naive. They think if we pull out of Iraq, the terrorists will leave us alone. They have abandoned those in their own party who dare to disagree with the most radical liberals of the far left. Democrats, with the help of their mis-

guided allies, such as media outlets like the New York Times, have signaled to the terrorists that America is tired, discouraged, and ready to quit, encouraging the terrorists to expand their attacks around the world.

Not content to simply heckle from the sidelines, Democrats have actively fought to block the tools that are critical to stopping future attacks. In fact, Senate Democrats united this week in opposition to the terrorist surveillance program, proposing an amendment to the port security bill that denounces this program that has saved American lives.

Just last Thursday, Democrats showed their continued tendency to flip-flop when they issued a media statement outlining their latest security agenda, pledging to "work to . . . ensure our intelligence agencies have the tools they need to defeat the terrorists." Then, 1 short hour later, they again played procedural games to block the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the National Security Surveillance Act of 2006.

The Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, got it right when he said:

It's little wonder that Democrats have a credibility gap with the American people on the issue of national security. Saying one thing [and then] doing another . . . doesn't help our efforts to win this war.

This week, Senate Democrats continued to prove they are willing to put politics ahead of the security and safety of American families by trying to kill the port security bill with partisan amendments.

The Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, openly admitted the Democratic strategy of playing politics with national security. Yesterday, Congress Daily reported Senator SCHUMER "conceded Democrats were seeking to score political points" and quoted my Democratic colleague saying: "This is politics at its very best."

I believe the American people have a different view of the partisan games the Senate Democrats are playing. I think they believe that this is politics at its very worst.

If Democrats spent half as much time fighting terrorists as they do this administration, America would win this war a lot faster.

Democrats claim to be the ones listening to the American people, but, unfortunately, they are just posturing to win an election. Mr. President, I invite my Democratic colleagues to stop these political games and to join us in helping to win this war on terror and securing America's homeland.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, how much time remains on our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 4 minutes 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes on each side for morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I didn't hear the request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has asked unanimous consent that each side have 5 additional minutes for morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I have no objection.

#### AMERICA'S STATUS IN FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about our status in this fight against Islamic extremism around the world.

When the terrorists struck the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, America was forced to realize that we were at war. We did not ask for this war. This conflict was brought to us by individuals who believe that America is evil. This is an enemy that hates us because we are a free nation, and our citizens are free to pursue their dreams and chart their own destiny.

The day the World Trade Center towers fell, our world—or at least our comprehension of it—changed forever. Our enemy stepped onto our soil, destroyed our buildings, killed more than 3,000 of our citizens, and made clear their intentions. They want nothing less than to cause our demise.

The world has changed much since that horrific day. Unfortunately, the will to fight extremists who planned and executed September 11, and many other attacks around the globe, has wavered since then. The united resolve of many nations has softened dramatically.

As Americans, we have no choice but to lead the way with an unwavering commitment to this fight. Remember, they asked for this fight. They, long ago, declared war on America and the free world and long before September 11 began attacking and killing our citizens.

They challenged us many times over the years and received little more than empty rhetoric and a slap on the wrist for such atrocities as striking the USS Cole, the first World Trade Center bombings, destruction of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and the Marine barracks in Lebanon; and, of course, they attacked our Embassies in Africa.

We were at war, but we didn't even know it. For too long we ignored the words of these terrorists. We attributed their declarations of hate as mere rantings of lunatics.

Time has shown us that the words of these Islamic extremists must be taken seriously, and we must continue to act decisively to stop them from achieving their aims.

In an effort to steal our collective resolve, it is important to remind ourselves just who the enemy really is in this global war against Islamic fascism. For too long America has seen our enemies through a prism that casts them in the mold of conventional powers, but the Islamic fascists are a different breed. They fight for no flag, nor